



King County

Department of Judicial Administration

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King County Superior Court

Criminal Department Statistical Report

November 2020

Department of Judicial Administration

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Criminal Statistics Summary

NOTE: Washington State Supreme Court orders related to the coronavirus pandemic, beginning March 2020, affect the statistics for the foreseeable future.

- **Filings**

As shown in the first chart on page 4, the monthly filings vary considerably from month to month. A total of 408 criminal cases were filed in November 2020. Of the 408 cases filed, 46% were MRJC cases. The year-to-date average filing volume in 2020 was 482 cases per month, compared with 515, 511, 519, 532, 535, 562, 548, 523 and 563 cases per month in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively.

- **Resolutions**

Like the monthly filings, the number of criminal cases resolved per month also varies from month to month (monthly resolution pattern is shown on page 4). The number of resolutions in November 2020 was 348 cases. Of the 348 cases resolved, 37% were MRJC cases. The year-to-date average resolution volume in 2020 was 348 cases per month, compared with 539, 481, 502, 514, 549, 506, 525, 481 and 494 cases per month in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, respectively.

- **Pending Caseload**

At the end of November 2020, the active pending criminal caseload is 5,934 cases, including criminal RALJ cases, higher than that in the previous months. Of the 5,934 pending criminal cases, 39% are MRJC cases. The breakdown of the 5,934 pending cases by crime category was: homicide (n=159), sex crime (n=555), robbery (n=269), aggravated assault (n=1107), burglary/theft (n=1670), motor vehicle theft (n=176), controlled substances – non-drug court (n=817), drug court (n=248), other felonies (n=863), and RALJ (n=70). **The increase in pending caseload is primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic causing the court to issue many fewer bench warrants and to postpone jury trials, thus keeping these cases in pending active status.**

- **Age of Pending Cases**

The median age (age for half of the pending cases) of pending cases are shown in Table 6. The median age of all active pending cases (excluding RALJ) at the end of November 2020 was 186 days. At the end of November 2020, 1908 non-drug court cases and 190 drug court cases still remained as active (unresolved) more than nine months since filing. Table 6 shows the number of active pending cases within pre-defined age intervals.

Conclusion: The average monthly filings of criminal cases were 482 cases in 2020. The resolution pace was lower than the filing pace in the same time period, with an average of 347 cases per month. The pending caseload (including RALJ) for both SEA and the MRJC was 5,934 cases at the end of November 2020. The pending caseload at the MRJC were 2,333 cases (including 65 drug court cases) at the end of November 2020. About 39% of the total pending criminal cases were the MRJC cases.

Terminology

Age of Pending Case

Time (days) from filing to resolution, less suspense time if applicable.

Age of Resolved Case

Time (days) from filing to resolution, less suspense time if applicable.

End Pending

Number of pending cases at the end of reporting period.

Net Change in Pending

The change in number of pending cases (end pending minus previous pending).

Pending Case

A case is defined as pending if it is unresolved and not on suspense status.

Previous Pending

Number of pending cases at the beginning of reporting period.

Reactivated Case

A case returns to active from suspense status during the reporting period.

Resolution

A case is resolved if all issues in the complaint are fully adjudicated. However, a drug court case is reported as resolved only when dispositive document is also filed (completed).

Resolution Category

Five resolution categories are used to report resolution of criminal cases: jury trial (CVJV, AQJV), non-jury trial (CVCT, AQCT), guilty plea (GP, GPAT, GPJT), dismissal (DSM), and other (all other resolution codes). For criminal RALJ cases, the resolution categories are: RALJ decision (CDTA, CDTM, CDTR), dismissal (DSRM), and others (any other resolution codes).

Suspended Case

A case is placed in suspense status (removing from active) during the reporting period.

Suspense Status

A case is said to be on suspense status if it is on warrant or appeal.

Suspense Time

Time (days) a case is on suspense status.

Figure 1. Number of Criminal Filings, Resolutions and Pending Caseload by Month

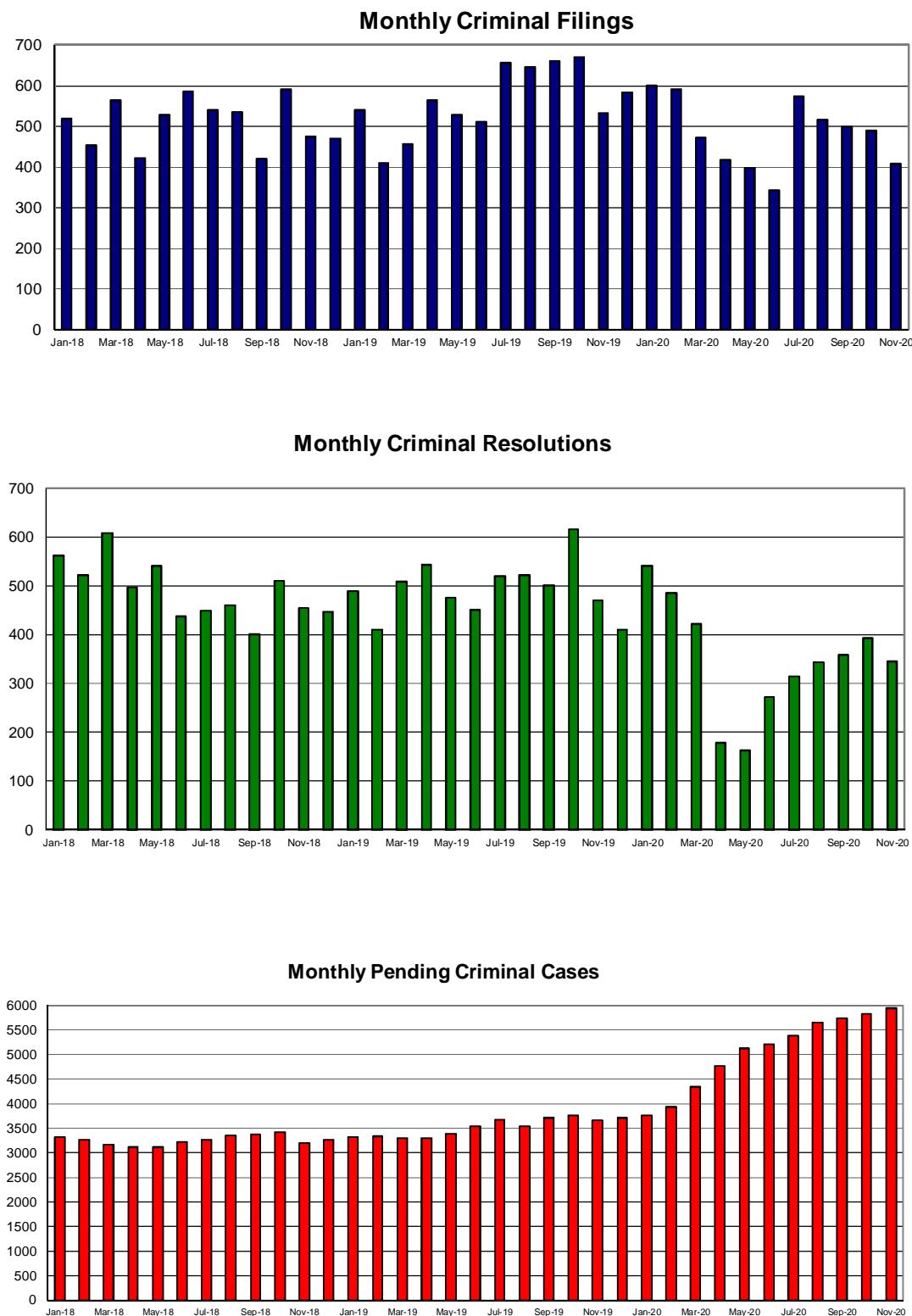


Figure 2. Crime Category as a Percentage of Total Filings by Year

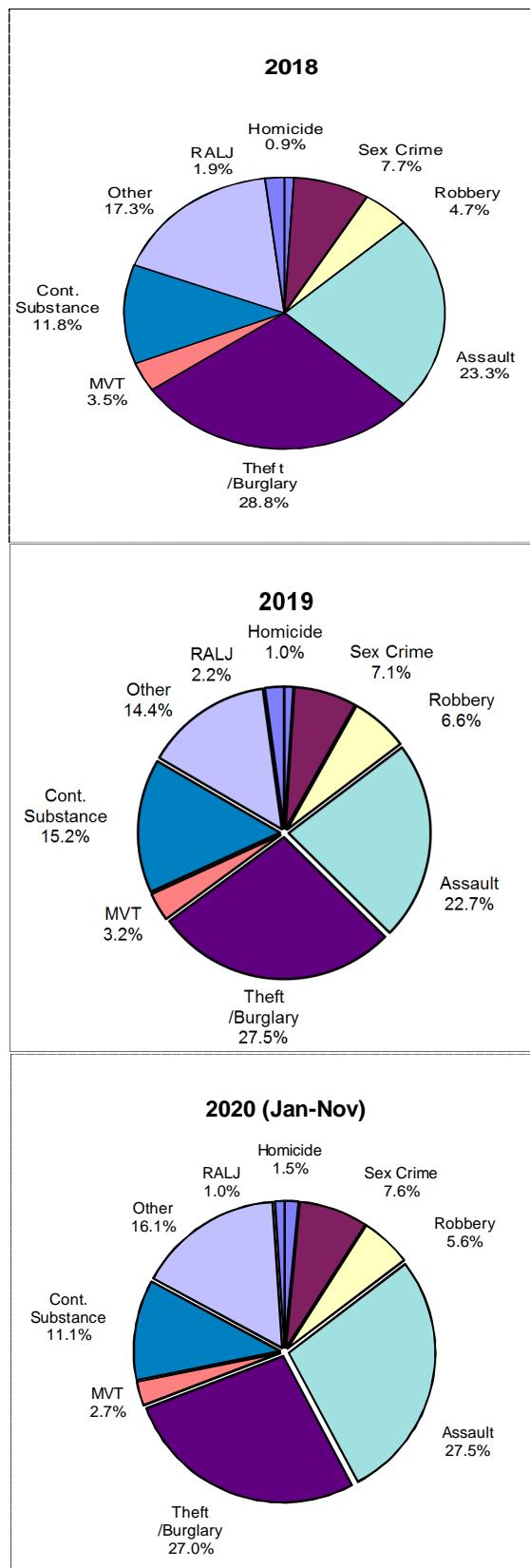


Table 1. Monthly Criminal New Filings by Crime Category^(*)
King County Superior Court

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Total												
2017	8	486	629	582	583	591	506	593	510	600	520	460
2018	519	452	564	423	528	586	541	534	419	591	474	471
2019	540	409	455	564	527	511	655	646	660	670	532	584
2020	599	591	472	416	397	342	573	516	498	489	408	
Homicide												
2017	7	2	1	5	2	7	3	9	5	5	6	5
2018	6	2	6	7	6	2	4	1	3	9	3	8
2019	4	6	3	4	4	9	10	5	2	9	4	8
2020	4	3	4	7	7	14	8	9	9	9	6	
Sex Crime												
2017	15	27	24	44	55	24	27	46	27	32	22	37
2018	36	30	43	31	34	44	42	38	40	49	41	42
2019	42	30	36	43	39	33	37	50	44	42	31	54
2020	35	45	36	42	45	21	38	26	59	27	28	
Robbery												
2017	16	22	28	17	23	18	20	14	14	15	16	15
2018	25	15	18	17	30	16	20	25	30	35	27	29
2019	44	39	40	35	33	21	46	33	43	31	36	42
2020	39	31	23	28	28	27	33	21	29	23	13	
Aggravated Assault												
2017	115	105	146	125	128	136	117	148	132	143	112	98
2018	117	117	110	107	126	140	134	147	93	113	115	106
2019	122	109	114	127	140	105	143	161	123	139	116	134
2020	141	148	129	137	114	111	132	162	135	142	109	
Burglary/Theft /Larceny												
2017	173	164	190	167	166	160	140	142	139	170	155	146
2018	157	148	181	111	151	158	147	132	119	189	123	143
2019	157	101	132	146	143	136	160	208	207	182	132	155
2020	156	141	110	89	99	91	201	153	140	137	113	
Motor Vehicle Theft												
2017	16	11	18	22	11	21	12	20	13	19	16	18
2018	21	24	31	10	14	16	11	16	9	26	13	20
2019	19	8	15	21	20	15	25	18	17	26	20	15
2020	14	14	13	3	10	12	11	27	11	15	11	
Controlled Substance												
2017	79	80	91	79	92	99	79	109	80	109	90	45
2018	47	42	41	37	64	93	66	65	52	84	81	51
2019	61	30	25	89	61	104	128	82	138	135	97	79
2020	99	110	74	18	19	16	77	25	40	44	64	
Other												
2017	93	69	114	109	87	107	101	95	91	94	93	85
2018	99	69	120	98	96	104	109	100	57	79	61	61
2019	72	76	77	89	76	82	98	81	69	92	87	76
2020	101	82	76	89	75	47	70	93	70	86	63	
Criminal RALJ												
2017	1	6	17	14	19	19	7	10	9	13	10	11
2018	11	5	14	5	7	13	8	10	16	7	10	11
2019	19	10	13	10	11	6	8	8	17	14	9	21
2020	10	17	7	3	0	3	3	0	5	6	1	
KNT Filing as % of Total												
2017	48%	44%	45%	42%	46%	41%	40%	47%	48%	44%	46%	44%
2018	44%	44%	41%	45%	43%	41%	46%	37%	35%	40%	41%	40%
2019	38%	42%	44%	41%	35%	41%	35%	44%	37%	37%	35%	37%
2020	41%	36%	38%	42%	37%	43%	45%	46%	39%	46%	46%	

(*) The highest crime category in a case's history is used to classify cases. For example, a case charged with homicide at any time in the case's history is reported as a homicide regardless of whether the charge is reduced at resolution.

Table 4. Age (days) of Resolved Cases
King County Superior Court

Crime Category (*)	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
All Resolutions	470	411	541	485	423	178	163	272	315	343	358	394	346
50% Cases Resolved by Day	125	108	123	136	90	108	92	130	162	181	202	217	242
Average Days to Resolution	210	215	202	196	200	223	189	190	211	210	267	270	247
Homicide (**)	8	10	5	2	5	2	0	1	1	1	1	3	2
50% Cases Resolved by Day	302	746	460	449	585	1102	--	356	406	924	390	1029	925
Average Days to Resolution	422	650	621	449	699	1102	--	356	406	924	390	1074	925
Sex Crime	25	17	37	32	17	14	10	8	27	25	28	34	22
50% Cases Resolved by Day	269	228	258	280	180	110	108	231	212	259	369	263	296
Average Days to Resolution	256	287	278	339	234	184	145	251	256	276	733	375	267
Robbery	34	30	36	33	27	11	10	17	21	25	26	23	34
50% Cases Resolved by Day	178	76	125	150	68	118	163	132	154	222	172	180	241
Average Days to Resolution	444	433	179	159	115	112	189	148	225	214	199	223	213
Aggravated Assault	127	98	131	138	103	48	40	72	73	108	109	115	113
50% Cases Resolved by Day	118	92	115	111	61	66	58	93	136	154	164	130	182
Average Days to Resolution	149	135	148	151	87	112	99	120	172	175	182	260	203
Burglary/Theft/Larceny	110	124	146	102	113	26	28	66	61	64	72	82	64
50% Cases Resolved by Day	84	95	112	117	96	71	53	146	153	154	162	223	256
Average Days to Resolution	121	229	142	153	158	163	125	197	182	193	193	208	261
Motor Vehicle Theft	11	16	15	7	12	0	4	8	2	4	11	2	6
50% Cases Resolved by Day	89	84	108	174	123	NA	185	180	198	268	253	437	246
Average Days to Resolution	95	176	126	242	174	NA	167	172	198	284	205	437	231
Controlled Substance	44	45	74	61	55	12	16	26	35	41	26	34	41
50% Cases Resolved by Day	111	109	118	116	98	96	9	133	197	189	250	242	251
Average Days to Resolution	110	132	296	159	119	150	64	190	216	207	229	231	238
Drug Court	31	6	21	30	22	20	21	12	18	7	29	23	16
50% Cases Resolved by Day	562	223	622	532	570	445	497	531	528	516	534	548	527
Average Days to Resolution	577	290	630	555	699	451	534	561	529	529	575	563	512
Other	65	57	66	71	66	32	21	49	63	50	48	68	41
50% Cases Resolved by Day	84	111	98	119	62	68	81	106	119	116	134	209	182
Average Days to Resolution	141	172	140	151	335	279	109	152	145	174	173	192	206
Criminal RALJ	15	8	10	9	3	13	13	13	14	18	8	10	7
50% Cases Resolved by Day	319	204	289	333	372	218	302	337	264	340	273	288	337
Average Days to Resolution	569	284	317	300	397	332	370	355	304	319	306	371	440

(*) The highest crime category in a case's history is used to classify cases. For example, a case charged with homicide at any time during the case's history is reported as a homicide regardless of whether the charge is reduced at resolution.

(**) Due to small number of resolutions in this category, the age statistics for homicides are expected to vary considerably.

"Controlled Substance - Non Drug Court" are drug related cases that have never been accepted into drug court.

"Drug Court" are cases that have been formally accepted into drug court (identified by orders).

Table 6. Age (days) of Pending Cases
King County Superior Court

Crime Category (*)	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
All Pending (excl. RALJ)	3664	3704	3756	3937	4335	4760	5131	5209	5293	5572	5659	5739	5864
Median Days (50%tile)	101	105	108	103	105	115	125	137	150	181	178	180	195
Average Days	170	176	169	161	164	173	182	194	197	242	214	221	232
Homicide	107	103	97	101	105	108	117	131	134	145	154	157	159
Median Days (50%tile)	350	328	308	306	294	320	333	319	296	321	320	291	314
Average Days	401	384	386	389	376	391	402	383	396	400	402	397	409
Sex Crime	351	396	378	394	433	469	509	528	543	551	559	551	555
Median Days (50%tile)	173	145	146	143	152	167	170	186	196	208	212	237	252
Average Days	221	207	211	196	205	214	226	239	249	281	267	274	290
Robbery	204	223	217	221	237	257	271	282	291	289	286	286	269
Median Days (50%tile)	90	91	93	87	99	121	138	140	154	172	173	185	183
Average Days	129	121	127	126	135	148	161	171	177	198	201	210	222
Aggravated Assault	689	721	687	721	782	883	955	999	1026	1100	1089	1105	1107
Median Days (50%tile)	79	88	88	79	84	80	96	118	134	138	140	136	138
Average Days	124	125	128	118	126	133	147	156	165	178	174	180	186
Burglary/Theft/Larceny	900	844	893	958	1076	1183	1315	1327	1417	1518	1568	1603	1670
Median Days (50%tile)	82	96	92	82	83	99	113	131	144	180	157	172	179
Average Days	134	139	134	129	133	148	158	168	168	220	190	200	212
Motor Vehicle Theft	93	91	89	99	113	118	124	127	132	158	162	171	176
Median Days (50%tile)	61	70	67	78	95	121	126	118	139	170	146	156	178
Average Days	107	96	98	97	107	130	139	140	156	259	166	178	189
Controlled Substance	479	460	500	523	616	676	728	719	744	749	769	777	817
Median Days (50%tile)	66	90	93	92	79	98	116	141	155	196	205	228	225
Median Days (50%tile)	118	160	134	132	128	143	159	176	184	257	217	230	237
Drug Court	312	305	310	314	319	328	302	275	271	280	265	247	248
Median Days (50%tile)	370	379	366	351	328	357	377	378	378	491	398	402	423
Average Days	423	448	413	402	402	417	433	431	434	584	454	453	480
Other	402	421	447	463	507	600	692	725	735	782	807	842	863
Median Days (50%tile)	81	77	80	73	89	90	94	117	127	144	150	155	165
Average Days	126	120	122	114	125	129	135	173	166	194	178	181	194
Criminal RALJ	127	140	138	143	147	138	118	96	93	81	77	75	70
Median Days (50%tile)	191	174	156	156	179	203	226	209	262	271	304	306	340
Average Days	307	292	301	282	309	334	367	238	434	481	505	497	528

(*) The highest crime category in a case's history is used to classify cases. For example, a case charged with homicide at any time during the case's history is reported as a homicide regardless of whether the charge is reduced at resolution.

"Controlled Substance - Non Drug Court" are drug related cases that have never been accepted into drug court.

"Drug Court" are cases that have been formally accepted into drug court (identified by orders).

Table 8. Comparison between SEA/KNT: Filings, Resolutions, and Pending Caseload
King County Superior Court

	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
Total Filings													
SEA - # of Cases Filed	347	371	355	377	294	243	251	194	317	277	303	264	221
KNT - # of Cases Filed	185	273	244	214	178	173	146	148	256	239	195	225	187
SEA %	65%	63%	59%	63%	62%	58%	63%	57%	55%	54%	61%	54%	54%
KNT %	35%	37%	41%	37%	38%	42%	37%	43%	45%	46%	39%	46%	46%
Total Resolutions													
SEA - # of Cases Resolved	291	243	299	284	263	119	99	152	187	202	222	249	217
KNT - # of Cases Resolved	179	168	242	201	160	59	64	120	128	141	136	145	129
SEA %	62%	59%	56%	59%	62%	67%	61%	56%	59%	59%	62%	63%	63%
KNT %	38%	41%	44%	41%	38%	33%	39%	44%	41%	41%	38%	37%	37%
Total Pending													
SEA - # of Cases Pending	2200	2258	2329	2498	2743	2991	3235	3276	3350	3485	3520	3574	3601
KNT - # of Cases Pending	2464	1446	1427	1439	1592	1769	1896	1933	2036	2168	2216	2240	2333
SEA %	60%	61%	62%	63%	63%	63%	63%	63%	62%	62%	61%	61%	61%
KNT %	40%	39%	38%	37%	37%	37%	37%	37%	38%	38%	39%	39%	39%

Table 9. Drug Court Statistics
King County Superior Court

Categories	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020
Referrals	88	42	50	73	41	0	0	7	53	18	47	35	27
<i>Directly from PA</i>	40	29	34	33	24	0	0	6	38	4	31	21	18
<i>From Mainstream</i>	48	13	16	40	17	0	0	1	15	14	16	14	9
Opt-in ⁽¹⁾	37	19	21	27	5	0	0	14	24	24	7	15	6
Graduations ⁽²⁾	24	3	19	21	15	16	15	4	12	6	18	15	13
Terminations ⁽³⁾	7	3	2	9	7	4	6	8	6	1	11	8	3
Resolutions	31	6	21	30	22	20	21	12	18	7	29	23	16
Drug Court Pending	312	305	310	314	319	328	302	275	271	280	265	247	248
<i>SEA Drug Court</i>	231	218	222	225	213	225	205	189	194	211	200	185	183
<i>KNT Drug Court</i>	81	87	88	89	106	103	97	86	77	69	65	62	65

- (1) Opt-in reflects the court order of participation.
(2) Graduations are dismissals of opted-in cases after the completion of program.
(3) Terminations are cases that fail in drug court.